

*CLAIM AMENDMENTS*

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Claims 1-18 (Canceled)

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A method for a host computer communicatively linked to a local area network and a virtual circuit network to handle communications between a first device on the local area network and a second device on the virtual circuit network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request from the first device for a virtual circuit connection with the second device;

generating a call reference value for the request;

~~saving an association of~~ storing a first correlation between a network address of the first device with the request and the call reference value as an entry in a table;

inserting the call reference value into the request;

sending the request to the second device;

receiving a virtual circuit response from the second device, wherein the virtual circuit response contains a virtual circuit identification assigned for the virtual circuit connection and the call reference value;

~~generating, using the virtual circuit identification and the association of the network address of the first device with the request, an association between the virtual circuit identification and the network address of the first device~~ first correlation, a second correlation between the virtual circuit identification and the network address of the first device;

~~saving the association between the virtual circuit identification and the network address of the first device~~ storing the second correlation as an entry in the table; and

sending the virtual circuit response to the first device.

Claim 20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of transmitting data between the first device and the second device using the virtual circuit identification.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 19, wherein the virtual circuit network is an asynchronous transfer mode network.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A host computer for transmitting data between a first device on a local area network and a second device on a virtual circuit network comprising:

a network program extracting a virtual circuit message from a device message, wherein the virtual circuit message includes a call reference value and a virtual circuit identification assigned to the first device for a virtual circuit connection with the second device;

a call deflector program ~~saving a first association~~ storing in a table a first correlation between a network address of the first device and the call reference value for a request by the first device to connect to the second device, and subsequently generating, using the ~~first association and the virtual circuit identification extracted from the virtual circuit message~~ first correlation, a second ~~association~~ correlation between the network address of the first device and the virtual circuit identification, wherein the second ~~association correlation~~ is stored in the table and is usable ~~for~~ to mediate communications between the first device and the second device; and

a packet switching program passing data between the first device and the second device based on the second association correlation.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The host computer according to claim 24 further comprising a call deflector table storing the second ~~association~~ correlation.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The host computer according to claim 24 further comprising a bus driver extracting the device message from a bus-specific message, and passing the device message to the network program.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The host computer according to claim 24, wherein the network program determines the network address of the first device from the request.

Claim 28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (Canceled)

Claim 30 (Canceled)

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The host computer according to claim 24, wherein the virtual circuit network is an asynchronous transfer mode network.

Claim 32 (Currently amended): A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for a host computer communicatively linked to a local area network and a virtual circuit network to handle communications to perform steps comprising:

- receiving a request from a first device on the local area network for a virtual circuit connection with a second device on the virtual circuit network;
- generating a call reference value for the request;
- ~~saving an association of~~ storing a first correlation between a network address of the first device ~~with the request~~ and the call reference value as an entry in a table;
- inserting the call reference value into the request;
- sending the request to the second device;
- receiving a virtual circuit response from the second device, wherein the virtual circuit response contains a virtual circuit identification assigned for the virtual circuit connection and the call reference value;
- ~~generating, using the virtual circuit identification and the association of the network address of the first device with the request, an association between the virtual circuit identification and the network address of the first device~~ first correlation, a second correlation between the virtual circuit identification and the network address of the first device;
- ~~saving the association between the virtual circuit identification and the network address of the first device~~ storing the second correlation as an entry in the table; and
- sending the virtual circuit response to the first device.

Claim 33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Canceled)

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The computer medium of claim 32 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the step comprising transmitting data between the first device and the second device using the virtual circuit identification.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The computer medium of claim 32, wherein the virtual circuit network is an asynchronous transfer mode network.

Claim 37 (New): A method for a host computer communicatively linked to a local area network (LAN) and a virtual circuit network to handle communications between a LAN device and a virtual circuit interface device, the method comprising the steps of:

- intercepting a request sent to the virtual circuit interface device from the LAN device;
- extracting a network address of the LAN device from the request;
- forwarding the request to the virtual circuit interface device;
- receiving a virtual circuit response from a virtual circuit device through the virtual circuit interface device, the response including a virtual circuit identifier assigned to a virtual circuit connection;
- storing in a table a correlation between the network address from the request and the virtual circuit identifier from the response; and
- forwarding the response to the LAN device.

Claim 38 (New): The method of claim 37, further comprising mediating communication on the virtual circuit connection using the correlation stored in the table.

Claim 39 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein the virtual circuit interface device is a Remote Network Drive Interface Specification (RNDIS) device, the request is an RNDIS-compliant message, and the response is an RNDIS-compliant message.

Claim 40 (New): The method of claim 37, wherein the host computer appears as the virtual circuit interface device to the LAN device.